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04/10/2012 Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, April 10, 2012
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, April 10, 2012.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Jim Robillard, Jen Rothenberg and Don Vitters. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Friends of Magnolia Park: Drew Burn, Rosalyn Fitzgerald, Ellen Torres and Rachel Krebs.

Approval of Minutes

The March 13, 2012 Minutes – Ms. Rothenberg motion to approve the minutes as amended by Ms. Mayer, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 4-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

Mr. Connelly met with the Friends of Magnolia Park to discuss a possible solution for the loose toys being left at the playground. The Friends would like a storage box for the loose toys which would be easily accessible. All toys would have to be placed in the box after use. The Friends stated that they understand the safety concerns and the larger items were removed. Mr. Connelly stated that he does have a storage box and he will work with the Friends to see if they can find a location outside of the fall zone. Signage will be placed by the box. The Friends will be responsible for keeping this area cleaned up. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the storage box as a pilot program for the summer. Mr. Vitters seconded and it was approved 4-0.

Thorndike Field OLRA Rules

Mr. Connelly presented the draft rules to the Commission. Ms. Mayer is going to look for different language that had been proposed by members of the Task Force. Ms. Rothenberg recommended the last bullet be separate or highlighted so it stands out more and possibly change the layout. All agreed to post the rules as a "DRAFT" then tweak after the Summer.

Parallel Park Fence Signage

The signage posted at Parallel Park advertising events is in a poor location and is probably against the current zoning regulations for the Open Space zone. Mr. Connelly reached out to both the Greek Church and the Soap Box Derby that an official request needs to be put submitted to the Recreation Department. Mr. Connelly will check with Michael Byrne regarding specific bylaws related to open-space signage. Signs will not be allowed until there is a decision on zoning compliance and without permission.

Capital Improvement Project Update

Wellington Tennis Courts – Mr. Connelly stated that the Courts are open. Mr. Connelly has not received one complaint

regarding lights. Lights are on a timer.

North Union Basketball Court – Mr. Connelly stated that the first coat of paving will be complete by Friday. The drainage is in; base layer is in, as well as posts and benches. Color coat will happen next week. Mr. Connelly stated that a section in the spray pool was ripped out, patched and made smooth.

Mr. Connelly stated that he investigated and nobody has taken responsibility for the new section of fencing that was installed adjacent to the spray park.

Thorndike Field OLRA Update – Stay-lok paving and lights are on order. The park looks great. The ramp element is in and shed looks good (and complies with Conservation requirements). An early May opening is being targeted.

2013 Capital Request Review – Mr. Connelly stated that we did not get any maintenance money. We received a recommendation to Town Meeting for \$440,000 for Florence Field playground renovation and \$10,000 for feasibility study funding.

Reservoir Boat Ramp – No report.

Buck Field Renovation – Mr. Connelly stated that French spread the warning track material. Light shields were ordered. No new information on the netting for the outfield. The Commission stated that they would like the complete base bid project completed prior to field opening – especially the light shields and poles for the additional safety netting.

Poets Corner Master Plan – No report.

Off-Leash Dog Review and Draft 2012 Warrant Article for Evening Off-Leash Hours

Mr. Connelly said that the Selectmen voted no action on the warrant for expanded evening hours. Mr. Connelly also said he has not received any new complaints. Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer did state that Ellen Reed, an abutter to Menotomy Rocks Park, is putting bushes in to hopefully become a deterrent for unleashed dogs getting in her yard.

Special Requests

Cleveland – Bench dedication at Spy Pond Park. This request came through the Board of Selectman. The Commission agrees that a bench should be purchased through the current gifting policy. There is no provision for plaques only.

Arlington Heights Nursery School – Ms. Rothenberg stated that there is a Brackett School function on June 13, 2012 and that a different date should be chosen. The Commission also discussed the need for a police detail for the event if 400 people is an accurate attendance number.

Black Crow Yoga Free Clinic on July 15th and August 12th – Mr. Vitters motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg, approved 4-0.

Soap Box Derby – Robbins Farm – June 2nd. Mr. Robillard motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters, approved 4-0.

Model Rocketing – The information provided about the exact nature of the activity was not detailed. The Commission agrees that the time needs to be more specific and not four hours. Mr. Connelly will reach out to the applicant to find a suitable time and place.

Rink and Recreation Update

Arlington Kid Care Program is ready to go. Transportation bids will go out within the coming month.

The Recreation revenues are up and expenses are good. The electricity expense and custodial expenses are high.

The Rink is good. Expenses are a bit high in the utility areas and in the building and grounds category due to some necessary emergency repairs.

Committee Updates:

Portable Restrooms – Mr. Connelly has marked all locations for all handicapped accessible units. Mr. Connelly is hearing all positive feedback.

Friends of Parks – N/A

Skateboard Park – N/A

Mill Brook Linear Park – N/A

Other Business

Ms. Rothenberg stated that she has heard there are problems at the Bishop infield. Mr. Connelly will have DPW take a look at it.

Spy Pond Pathway – Mr. Connelly received a quote from Heimlich of \$9,000 to bring in the same pathway material and regrade the eroded areas identified. Mr. Connelly will get a price for yearly maintenance after this base work is complete.

The bleachers at Buck Field will not be moved to McClennen, as there really is no suitable location.

The May Meeting will be Wednesday, May 9th at 6:00 PM due to Town Meeting.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation